

NWA 1195
Depleted Shergottite
315 grams



Figure 1: Photograph of NWA 1195 by Adam and Greg Hupé.

Introduction

Irving *et al.* (2002) report that a 50 gram stone with a distinctive thin weathering rind was found in March 2002 near Safsaf, Morocco. Careful searching led to the discovery of a second, larger piece of this same rock (265 grams). NWA1195 is 347 m.y. old with an exposure to cosmic rays for 1.1 m.y. (see below).

Figure 1 shows how the two pieces fit together.

Petrography

Euhedral olivine megacrysts (up to 4 mm) are set in a groundmass of low-Ca pyroxene and maskelynite, with minor chromite, pyrrhotite and merrillite. This sample appears to have mineral compositions similar to that of the Dar al Gani shergottites.

Symes *et al.* (2008) report that NWA1195 is “an olivine-orthopyroxene-phyric shergottite” and give a description – but no mode.

Mineral Chemistry

Olivine: Olivine exhibits strong compositional zoning from Fo₈₁ cores to Fo₆₀ rims.

Pyroxenes: The pyroxenes are zoned from Wo₄En₇₇ to Wo₁₂En₆₇.

Maskelynite: Maskelynite is chemically zoned from An₆₃ to An₅₉.

Whole-rock Composition

Kuehner *et al.* (2011) determined the trace element composition of NWA1195, indicating that it has a “depleted” REE pattern (figure 4). Brandon *et al.* (2012) reported on some very unusual elements. Major elements are not reported.

Radiogenic Isotopes

Symes *et al.* (2005, 2008) have determined a crystallization age of 347 ± 13 m.y. by Sm-Nd internal mineral isochron technique (figures 2 and 3). They also attempted a Rb-Sr isochron; with no success, probably because of terrestrial weathering.

Table 1. Chemical composition of NWA 1195.

reference	Kuehler11	Symes08	Brandon12
weight			
SiO ₂ %			
TiO ₂			
Al ₂ O ₃			
FeO			15
MnO			
MgO			18.1
CaO			
Na ₂ O			
K ₂ O			
P ₂ O ₅			
S %			
sum			
Sc ppm			
V			
Cr			
Co			
Ni			
Cu			
Zn			
Ga			
Ge ppb			
As			
Se			
Rb	0.374	(b)	
Sr	19.2	(b)	
Y			
Zr			
Nb			
Mo			
Ru ppb			6.12
Rh			
Pd ppb			4.13
Ag ppb			
Cd ppb			
In ppb			
Sn ppb			
Sb ppb			
Te ppb			
Cs ppm			
Ba			
La	0.26	(a)	
Ce	0.67	(a)	
Pr	0.111	(a)	
Nd	0.72	(a) 0.295	(b)
Sm	0.56	(a) 0.254	(b)
Eu	0.32	(a)	
Gd	1.25	(a)	
Tb	0.26	(a)	
Dy	1.83	(a)	
Ho	0.4	(a)	
Er	1.13	(a)	
Tm	0.16	(a)	
Yb	1.03	(a)	
Lu	0.15	(a)	
Hf			
Ta			
W ppb			
Re ppb			0.237
Os ppb			4.05
Ir ppb			3.3
Pt ppb			6.84
Au ppb			
Th ppm			
U ppm			
technique	(a) ICP-MS, (b) IDMS		

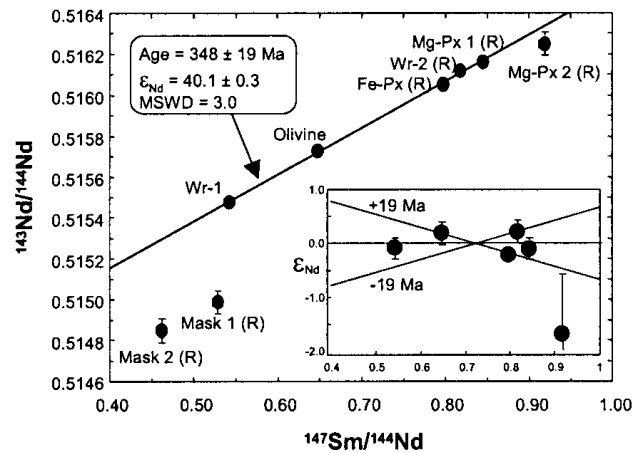


Figure 2: Sm-Nd mineral isochron for NWA 1195 (from Symes et al. 2005).

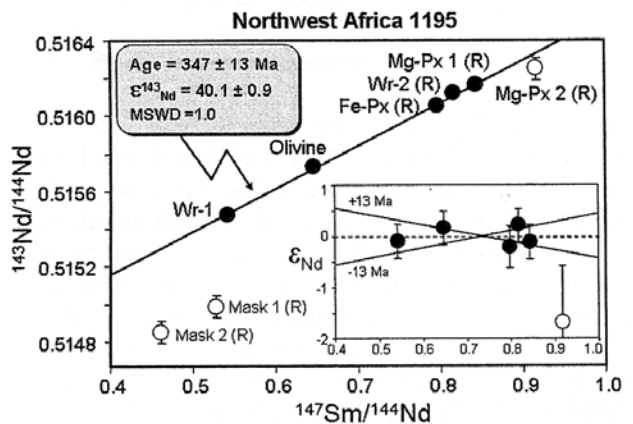


Figure 3: Sm-Nd isochron from Symes et al. 2008.

Cosmogenic Isotopes

The ¹⁰Be exposure age of NWA1195 is 1.1 ± 0.2 m.y. and the terrestrial age is > 37 thousand years (Nishiizumi et al. 2004).

Alteration:

NWA1195 has a distinct weathering rind (figure 1). Some pyroxenes have patchy overgrowths of (?)chlorite-like minerals. Calcite occurs sparsely along grain boundaries.

Other Isotopes

Brandon et al. (2012) reported Os isotopes on residue and leached samples of NWA1195.

References for NWA1195

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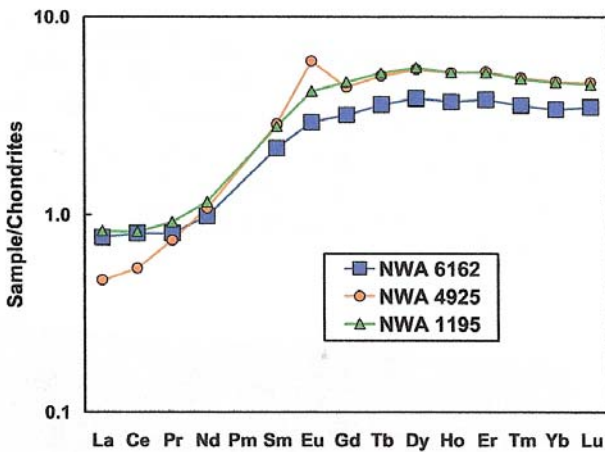


Figure 4: Normalized rare-earth-element pattern for NWA1195 compared with other “depleted” samples (Kuehner et al. 2011).

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